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Module 02: Land Use

Urban EcoLab

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Land Use Game

Center for Urban Resilience

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Name: _____ Date: _____ Period/Class: _____

Lesson 1: Land Use Game Instructions and Play

Current City Conditions

Name Your City: _____

You live in a thriving city with a population of 550,000 with a major river running through the western side of your city. During the previous twenty years your city's population has been stable for the past 10 years, however the areas on the edge of city are rapidly growing and the entire metropolitan area of the city has a population of just over 1,500,000. Within your city the population lives fairly evenly throughout, with a few areas of higher density housing near the river and in areas where rents and housing prices are lower. The population is quite ethnically diverse and like other cities in the country is getting older. The average age of people who live in the city is 44 years old.

The city is a local hub for businesses and work as nearly 200,000 commute into the city each day for work this has lead to an average commute time of nearly 45 minutes each way from their jobs in the city to their homes out in the suburbs. A recent survey found that many people are unhappy with these long commute times and would be willing to relocate closer to the city if they could find more affordable housing. Your city has a public transportation system consisting of buses and a two train lines that crisscrosses the city that meets the needs of the residents (but will not be enough to meet the needs of new residents?). Despite this increase in population and automobile traffic, the city's air quality and water quality have been good during the past ten years. However, the worst 10 days of air quality during the past decade has occurred during the previous two summers.

Your city has a several parks spread throughout the city. Most of the parks are small in size with a few larger ones near schools and public buildings. Your city also has taken care to maintain the city's street trees and they are generally healthy throughout the city. The river that runs through the western side of your city was once quite polluted as most of the industry that provided many jobs were located on the western side of your city. Today, however, the river is much cleaner than it was in the past but more work needs to be done to continue its improvement.

The Future of Your City

A recent study by your state and city government showed that metropolitan area around your city will double in the next twenty years. This population increase will put great strains on the economic, ecological, and sociological infrastructure of your city. There are many questions that will need answering such as how best to allow the city grow? Where should the development be focused? For example, should new housing and business be encouraged to develop on the fringe of your city which will help reduce the number of people who need to commute into downtown? Or should higher density housing and new business be encouraged near downtown to reduce the geographical spread of your city? These are just two questions that your city must answer if it is to continue to thrive economically, socially, and ecologically.

In this game you are one member of the regional zoning commission and you have been asked to evaluate proposals based upon their economic, sociological, and ecological impacts to your city.

Game Instructions

1. Each game should have **three** players. One player should be assigned the role of recorder, one player should be assigned the roles of reading the policy cards and moving the game piece, while the third player is in charge of reading the decision cards and rolling the dice.
2. Each player starts the game with 10 ecological chips, 10 economic chips, and 10 sociological chips. You will add or lose chips throughout the game.
3. As you play the game you **MUST RECORD YOUR DECISIONS AND WHY YOU MADE YOUR DECISION ON YOUR GAME PLAY SHEET. THIS IS IMPORTANT AS THIS WILL HELP TO DECIDE WHO WON THE GAME.**
4. The game then proceeds by rolling the die and moving around the game board until the game is concluded.
5. There are two card spaces in the game.
 - a. The first in the **POLICY EVENT CARD**. The Policy Event Cards have descriptions of policy decisions that you as a zoning commissioner must abide. If your game piece lands on a Policy Even Card read the policy card and follow the instructions.
 - b. The second type of card are the **DECISIONS** cards. The Decision Cards consists of three choices and after reading your options you must make a decision. Then once you have made your decision following the corresponding consequence as described on the back of your decision card. For example, if you choose option A then you must follow the consequences of that decision by following the A consequences.

Ending the Game

6. After you finish the game revisit the decisions that you made and evaluate whether you would change your decision now that you know the consequences. **BE SURE TO WRITE YOUR NEW DECISION AND THE NEW OUTCOME ON YOUR RECORDING SHEET.**
7. **After you finish the game write a 1-3 sentence summary of why you made the decisions that you made and do you think your decisions were successful?** For instance, did all of your decisions focus on economic considerations and if they did do you think you city will be continue to thrive as a place where people will want to live?
8. The winner of the game will be determined by your fellow classmates as described by your teacher.

GAME PLAY SHEET: YOUR DECISIONS AND POLICY IMPACTS

In the below record any policy decisions that happened to you during the game and the potential impact of those decisions. Also record your decisions that you made during the game and their potential impact.

City Name: _____ Player Name: _____

EVENT (Policy/Decision)	Potential Impact	Positive/Negative outcomes

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Game Play Summary:

Write a 3-4 paragraph summary that describes the reasons behind your decisions. Do you think your decisions will lead to a city where people want to continue to work and live?



Determining the Winner or most sustainable and liveable city!

Once you are done and you have written the summary of your decisions. Hand your Game Play Sheet and the summary of your game play decisions to a neighboring team. The other team will evaluate your decisions and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your decisions and make recommendations for improvement.